

# REPORTS

OF THE

PRESIDENT, TREASURER,

AND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

OF THE

WILMINGTON INSTITUTE,

MADE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1866.

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PRINTED FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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WILMINGTON:  
HENRY ECKEL, PRINTER,  
S. E. CORNER FIFTH AND MARKET STREETS.  
1866.



# LIST OF EX-PRESIDENTS

OF THE

## WILMINGTON INSTITUTE.

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|                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| For Term ending April, 1859, | JOSHUA T. HEALD.    |
| “ “ “ “ 1860,                | WILLIAM CANBY.      |
| “ “ “ “ 1861,                | SAMUEL BIDDLE.      |
| “ “ “ “ 1862,                | WILLIAM S. HILLES.  |
| “ “ “ “ 1863,                | GEO. W. BUSH.       |
| “ “ “ “ 1864,                | DR. WM. R. BULLOCK. |
| “ “ “ “ 1865,                | DR. J. F. VAUGHAN.  |
| “ “ “ “ 1866,                | JOHN H. ADAMS.      |



## LIST OF OFFICERS FOR 1866--67.

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PRESIDENT—JOHN P. McLEAR.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT—JNO. H. ADAMS.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT—J. F. VAUGHAN.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY—SAM'L M. HARRINGTON.

RECORDING SECRETARY—LEIGHTON COLEMAN.

TREASURER—CHARLES W. HOWLAND.

## DIRECTORS.

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NATHANIEL R. BENSON,

Dr. JNO. P. WALES,

WILLIAM CANBY,

CLEMENT B. SMYTH,

J. CLOUD ELLIOTT,

ANTHONY HIGGINS,

WILLIAM H. SWIFT,

Dr. D. W. MAULL,

DANIEL W. TAYLOR,

JOHN W. STAPLER.

## COMMITTEES, 1866--67.

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### WAYS AND MEANS.

JOHN H. ADAMS,  
CLEMENT B. SMYTH,  
CHAS. W. HOWLAND.

### DONATIONS.

N. R. BENSON,  
S. M. HARRINGTON,  
WM. CANBY,

### ROOMS AND FIXTURES.

WM. CANBY.  
DR. J. P. WALES,  
C. W. HOWLAND.

### MEMBERSHIP FUND.

JOHN W. STAPLER,  
C. B. SMYTH,  
JNO. H. ADAMS.

### NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

DR. D. W. MAULL,  
J. CLOUD ELLIOTT,  
WM. H. SWIFT.

### LECTURES AND DEBATES.

S. M. HARRINGTON,  
DR. D. W. MAULL,  
DANIEL W. TAYLOR.

### HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT AND ARCHIVES.

DR. J. F. VAUGHAN,  
JNO. W. STAPLER,  
ANTHONY HIGGINS.

### LIBRARY.

ANTHONY HIGGINS,  
REV. L. COLEMAN,  
DR. J. F. VAUGHAN.

### PRINTING.

WM. H. SWIFT,  
J. CLOUD ELLIOTT,  
N. R. BENSON.

### SCIENCE.

DANIEL W. TAYLOR,  
REV. L. COLEMAN,  
DR. J. P. WALES.

## NINTH ANNUAL MEETING.

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WILMINGTON, DEL., April 2d, 1866.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. John H. Adams.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read for information.

The reports of the Treasurer and of the various Standing Committees were then read by the Recording Secretary.

The Retiring President delivered his annual address; after which, he introduced the President elect, Mr. John P. McLearn, who, upon taking the chair, made a few appropriate remarks.

An amendment to Article V, chapter 1, of the Constitution, was adopted, whereby the fee for Life Membership was increased from thirty dollars to forty dollars, to take effect on and after 1st of July next.

Thanks were, on motion, returned to the late President, Treasurer and Executive Committee, for the satisfactory manner in which they have discharged their several duties during the past year.

It was ordered that 300 copies of the President's address and of the reports read this evening be published for the use of the members.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned.

Attest,

LEIGHTON COLEMAN,

Recording Secretary.

# REPORTS.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Charles W. Howland, Treasurer, in account with Wilmington Institute.*

### DR. RECEIPTS.

|                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Received from members,        | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | \$2,419 00 |
| “ life members,               | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 180 00     |
| “ Rent of Halls,              | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,718 10   |
| “ “ stores and offices,       | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,887 96   |
| “ “ dwelling house adjoining, | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 310 00     |
| “ Fines on books,             | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 27 40      |
| “ Sales of old papers,        | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 26 67      |
| “ at Scientific lectures,     | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 31 00      |
| “ at Literary lectures,       | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 109 62     |
| “ Dividend on bank stock,     | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 30 00      |
| “ Sundries,                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 18 19      |
|                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>      |
|                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | \$7,757 94 |
| Balance from last year,       | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 147 26     |
|                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>      |
|                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | \$7,905 20 |

### CR. CONTRA.

|                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| Books,                                            | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | \$ 939 31  |
| Newspapers and periodicals,                       | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 298 41     |
| Binding and repairing,                            | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 108 48     |
| Librarian, and making fires,                      | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 397 00     |
| Gas,                                              | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 529 35     |
| Fuel,                                             | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 174 30     |
| Interest on whole debt,                           | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,076 23   |
| Bonds Nos. 6 and 7,                               | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,000 00   |
| Taxes,                                            | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 233 24     |
| Water Tax,                                        | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 30 00      |
| Insurance,                                        | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 79 88      |
| License of City for Hall,                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 25 50      |
| Advertising and printing,                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 101 53     |
| Janitor,                                          | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 189 50     |
| Police,                                           | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 126 50     |
| Scientific lectures,                              | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 156 55     |
| Literary lectures,                                | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 248 03     |
| Amount paid on note given for adjoining property, | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 180 00     |
| Carpenter work,                                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 258 32     |
| Mason work,                                       | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 34 75      |
| Plumbing and Gas Fitting,                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 56 21      |
| Painting,                                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 84 68      |
| Filling up Well,                                  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 50 75      |
| Stove and Fixtures,                               | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 39 92      |
| Cabinet work,                                     | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 41 65      |
| Cleaning,                                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 45 25      |
| Sundries,                                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 186 42     |
|                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>      |
| Total expenditures,                               | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | \$7,691 81 |
| Balance of cash on hand,                          | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 213 39     |
|                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/>      |
|                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | \$7,905 20 |

CHAS. W. HOWLAND, Treasurer.

WILMINGTON, 4th mo., 2d, 1866.

We have examined the account and vouchers of C. W. Howland, Treasurer, and find them correct, leaving a balance due the Wilmington Institute, of two hundred and thirteen dollars and thirty-nine cents. (\$213 39.)

March 31, 1866.

WILLIAM CANBY, } Committee of  
JOHN W. STAPLER, } Ways and Means.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Annual Members.....    | 603 |
| Number of Life Members.....      | 44  |
| Number of Perpetual Members..... | 1   |
| <hr/>                            |     |
| Total,.....                      | 648 |

The amount received for dues from March 28th, 1865, to March 1866.....\$2,419

We are gratified to be able to report that the funds of the Institute are in good condition, the interest on all debts being paid when due, out of cash on hand. The sixth and seventh second mortgage bonds (\$500 each) were promptly paid at maturity.

Provision for the payment of the eighth and ninth second mortgage bonds (\$500 each) will have to be made, during the incoming year.

There have been large outlays: increasing the number of volumes in the Library: enlarging the Magazine and Newspaper departments, with other improvements for the benefit of the members.

Notwithstanding the increased charge in annual dues, the number of members exhibits a generous patronage from the public.

The debt of the Institute is as follows:

|                                                                                            |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| First mortgage bonds.....                                                                  | \$13,000.00 |
| Thirty-three second mortgage bonds.....                                                    | 16,500.00   |
| Amount added by purchase of adjoining property, diminished<br>by fees of Life Members..... | 3,920.00    |
| <hr/>                                                                                      |             |
| Total.....                                                                                 | \$33,420.00 |

JOHN W. STAPLER,  
CHAS. W. HOWLAND, } Committee.  
WILLIAM CANBY,

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ROOMS AND FIXTURES.

The Committee on Rooms and Fixtures beg leave to report, that the whole building has been rented for the entire year, with the occasional exception of two of the rooms in the basement.

The four rooms on Market Street have rented for \$1,150.00. The offices and rooms on the second and third floors, and basement rooms for \$702.96.

Some repairing has been necessary, and some painting has been done, both inside and outside of the building.

The platform in the large lecture room has been raised about 14 inches, and made four feet wider, which enables the audience to see from their seats in any part of the room, without the difficulty they have heretofore experienced.

The rents for the stores, offices and rooms, throughout the building, have been increased about 25 per cent. for the present year.

Receipts and expenses have been as follows:—

#### DR.

|                                                      |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Amount received for rent of Hall.....                | \$2,572.60 |
| do do for rent of Scientific and Directors room,...  | 193.50     |
| do do for rent of four stores on Market Street,..... | 1,150 00   |
| do do for offices and other rooms,.....              | 702.96     |
| do do for rent of adjoining property,.....           | 310.00     |

#### CR.

|                                                                   |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Paid salary of Librarian, and for services of colored woman....   | \$ 397.00 |
| “ Gas bills.....                                                  | 529.35    |
| “ Insurance on building and contents, and adjoining property..... | 85.01     |
| “ for fuel,.....                                                  | 174.30    |
| “ Interest on first and second mortgages,.....                    | 1,815.00  |
| “ Interest on mortgage on adjoining property,.....                | 246.00    |
| “ City and School Tax and County Tax on adjoining property        | 233.24    |
| “ Water Rent for 1866.....                                        | 30.00     |
| “ License for Concerts, &c.....                                   | 25.50     |
| “ Janitor’s fees,.....                                            | 189.50    |
| “ Police “ .....                                                  | 126.50    |
| “ Cleansing,.....                                                 | 44.00     |
| “ for improvements in Hall,.....                                  | 210.50    |
| “ for carpenter work, improvements and repairs.....               | 386.53    |
| “ for sundries.....                                               | 94.31     |

All of which is respectfully submitted.

|                                                          |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| WILLIAM CANBY,<br>DANIEL W. TAYLOR,<br>CHAS. W. HOWLAND, | { Committee. |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|

Wilmington, March 27th, 1866.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY.

The Committee on Library beg leave respectfully to report, that

there has been expended for books since April 3d, 1865, \$925.31  
 Amount expended during year ending April 3d, 1865..... 588,17

|                                                       |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Increase.....                                         | \$337.14   |
| Expended for Binding.....                             | 108.48     |
| Indexing Catalogue.....                               | 18.00      |
| Making the whole sum appropriated to the Library..... | \$1,051.79 |
| Number of books taken out this year.....              | 25,487     |
| “ “ “ “ “ last year.....                              | 20,000     |

Number of books added to the library this year, five hundred and seventy. Number lost or stolen, 12. Number worn out, 75. Whole number of volumes in library, 6,603.

The Committee have been enabled by the handsome sum placed at their disposal, to purchase a larger number of works than usual, notwithstanding the increased prices of books, and many of them of great and permanent value.

If the amount appropriated for the library continues as large as it has been, the Committee hope soon to purchase all desirable works of fiction, and to furnish duplicate copies of popular new books.

It is a pleasure for them to be able to state that the measures adopted by them, at the suggestion of the Board of Directors, have relieved the members from annoyance created by boys and others not belonging to the Institute, frequenting the Library Room.

|                                                     |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| ANTHONY HIGGINS,<br>WM. R. BULLOCK,<br>D. W. MAULL, | } Committee. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------|

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

The committee on Newspapers and Periodicals for the past year, beg leave to report that they have endeavored to perform the part allotted to them with fidelity. This useful branch of the Institute remains much the same, except that since the close of the rebellion they have secured several southern newspapers for the benefit more especially of such of our members as are in business, and of others who are interested in the political questions now pending.

In the midst of events daily transpiring of such general importance

and interest, the Committee would recommend an increase of our list of newspapers rather than any diminution of it.

|                                                  |          |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The number of publications taken at this time is | 51       |
| Published daily.....                             | 13       |
| Semi-weekly.....                                 | 7        |
| Weekly.....                                      | 14       |
| Semi-monthly.....                                | 1        |
| Monthly.....                                     | 11       |
| Quarterly.....                                   | 5—51     |
| Expenses for subscriptions paid in advance.....  | \$291.50 |
| Paid for money orders, stamps, postage, &c.....  | 7.63     |
| Total expenses.....                              | \$299.13 |

J. CLOUD ELLIOTT,  
CLEMENT B. SMYTH, } Committee.  
WM. H. SWIFT,

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LECTURES.

The Committee on Lectures and Debates report that the course of Literary Lectures for 1865-6, consisted of the following:

Lecture by Hon. David Paul Brown, "Stratford-on-Avon."

" " Gen. Carl Schurz, "Reconstruction."

" " Edwin P. Whipple, "Shoddy."

And a select Reading by N. K. Richardson, Esq., of Philadelphia.

With the following pecuniary results:

### *Expenses.*

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Fees to lecturers,..... | \$311.66      |
| Printing.....           | 38.50         |
| Posting, &c.....        | 7.25          |
| Postage.....            | 1.40—\$358.81 |
| Receipts.....           | 209.13        |

Loss on the course..... \$149.68  
Which is slightly less than the sum set apart in the Treasurer's estimate of expenses for loss on the literary course.

SAML. M. HARRINGTON,  
WM. R. BULLOCK,  
LEIGHTON COLEMAN, } Committee.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE.

The Committee on Science respectfully report that a course of six lectures was delivered in their department, during the past year, as follows:

A course of five, on Light, by T. Clarkson Taylor.

The sixth, on Electricity, by Prof. Henry Morton, of Philadelphia.

Invitations were extended by the Committee to some other gentlemen, but their services could not be secured.

|                                        |          |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| The receipts for the whole course..... | \$165.95 |
| The expenses   “   “   “   .....       | 288.75   |
| <hr/>                                  |          |
| Leaving a deficiency.....              | \$122.80 |

The great increase in the attendance upon the course over previous years, was sufficient evidence of the deep interest manifested in it.

The Committee have used all means in their power, to procure those lectures which would prove both attractive and improving; and would suggest for the benefit of the department, and of our successors, that application be made early for suitable lecturers. The habit of delaying this matter is, we think, wrong.

All scientific researches require time; consequently the lecturer will be better able to give satisfaction to the audience, as well as himself, by having sufficient time to investigate the particular subject of his discourse.

The Committee feel confident that a more important and profitable series of lectures has not been given in the Halls of the Institute. Nor can we too gratefully thank the gentlemen already named for their valuable labors; valuable because they have awakened in the young mind a desire to know more of the laws of the material world, the revelations of nature. Her avenues all afford inexhaustible themes for study, reflection and research, and far exceed in intrinsic value, the ordinary discourses of a lecture room.

From the former we learn the most practical and useful lessons, whilst too generally we obtain from the latter, only the speculations of the speaker, and not unfrequently false theories instead of true ones; upon the contrary, if we continue our investigation of nature's store house, and ask her questions aright, we are sure of correct answers.

In conclusion, we would wish that our successors may meet with greater encouragement in their efforts to elevate the Scientific Department in the estimation of their fellow members. Its importance and growing interest are worthy of more liberal support, and to aid them in this, we

would suggest that more funds be placed at their disposal, for certainly there can be no way in which they can be more profitably invested.

D. W. TAYLOR,  
LEIGHTON COLEMAN,  
SAML. M. HARRINGTON, } Committee.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT AND ARCHIVES.

The Committee on Historical Department and Archives would report, that they have attended to the duties devolving upon them, having taken charge of the archives of the Institute during the year, and attended to all bills, reports and correspondence.

The scope of the Committee having been materially lessened, by the formation of the Delaware State Historical Society, which has in a great measure absorbed the business of the Historical Department, little has been left to be accomplished in this department. But the Committee are ever ready, as formerly, to receive and preserve for the Institute any gifts of historical interest, which may be placed in their hands.

D. W. MAULL,  
ANTHONY HIGGINS,  
JOHN W. STAPLER, } Committee.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

The Committee on Printing report, that they have endeavored to faithfully execute all business connected with their department.

All accounts for printing, so far as known, have been settled to the present date.

JOHN P. WALES,  
J. F. VAUGHAN,  
N. R. BENSON, } Committee.

Wilmington, March 20th, 1866.

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP FUND.

The Committee on Membership Fund report, that the present number of names on the list of life members is.....44

Perpetual members.....1

Being a gain of *seven* life members during the past year.

The Committee are of the opinion that the amount now charged for

life membership is too low, in proportion to the annual dues of yearly subscribers; and in view of the rapid increase of the number of books, periodicals and newspapers in the Institute, and the greatly enlarged privileges thereby afforded to members, would respectfully recommend that the fee for life membership be increased to \$40; said advance to take effect on and after the 1st day of July next.

WM. H. SWIFT,  
CLEMENT B. SMYTH, } Committee.  
J. F. VAUGHAN,

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DONATIONS.

The Committee on Donations report, that they have received 64 volumes, from the following named persons:—Mr. Samuel C. Morton, Mr. Henry H. J. Naff, Mr. Horatio G. Jones, Mrs. Nicholas Patterson, Mr. Samuel M. Harrington, Smithsonian Institute, Dr. D. W. Maull, Hon. George Read Riddle, Hon. N. B. Smithers, Hon. J. A. Nicholson, Prof. A. D. Bache, Messrs. Pusey, Jones & Co., Messrs Dillon, and Mrs. Gregg Chandler, Report of Young Men's Association, of Cincinnati; Report of Mercantile Library Association, of New York; Annual Report of Mercantile Library Company, of Philadelphia; 21st Annual Report of Washington City Public Schools.

Also, Curiosities from the following named persons:—Dr. S. S. Nones, Dr. Bullock, Mrs. Breese, and Mrs. Dr. Couper. All of which we most respectfully report.

N. R. BENSON,  
J. CLOUD ELLIOTT, } Committee.  
J. P. WALES,

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

To the great Supreme Ruler of the Universe we must acknowledge our indebtedness, and return our sincere thanks, for his kindness in the past to us as an Institution, and invoke Divine aid for the future; for without such aid our efforts will be of no avail whatever.

On the evening of the first Monday of April, 1865, the members of the Wilmington Institute were convened in annual meeting amid the booming of cannon, the ringing of bells, the sound of music, the shout of the multitude, and a general rejoicing in public and private, because of the triumphal entry of the army of the Republic into the Rebel

Capital, a prelude to a total overthrow of the most nefarious rebellion that the world has ever seen ; a precursor of the end of a four years war, securing the life of the Republic, and practically illustrating the fact that the right must and will triumph. It is a fact worthy of record, that during the entire war the Wilmington Institute stood up for the right, and through good and evil report at all times maintained the cause of our country.

A Constitutional proviso requires of each retiring President "a written report of the doings of the Association during his term of office, with such suggestions and recommendations as his judgement may dictate."

The detailed reports of the Standing Committees for the past year, which have been read in your hearing, are so elaborate, and show so clearly the situation of the Institute in each department, that a general review will now only be requisite.

Our entire indebtedness April 1st, 1865, was \$34,420 00, which has been diminished during the year by the payment of two second mortgage bonds, for \$500 each, leaving our indebtedness at this time \$33,420 00.

Our list of members does not exhibit that gratifying increase that is desired. Our total membership at the last annual meeting was 649. We now have the same number, showing no increase during the year. The Executive Committee has for years been anxious that our membership should number one thousand. This ought to be. The question naturally arises, how can it be accomplished? It is said that Wilmington contains a population of 27,000. By proper exertions, one twenty-seventh part of our people can surely be induced to contribute four dollars annually for the support of such an Institution as ours. I would suggest that each member will endeavor to add one to our number. If all will try, certainly sufficient will be added to accomplish the end.

The Committee on Lectures have been zealous in their efforts during the season just closed, as well as for several years past, to present the best and most popular lecturers in the country ; and the Executive Committee have been liberal in the outlay of the resources of the Institute ; and, in fact, have made use of every exertion in their power to make the course of literary lectures profitable, both financially and intellectually, but have signally failed. In the last few years the committee have presented such names as Curtis, Beecher, Phillips, Gough, Dougherty, Colfax, Schurz, and others of equal celebrity, but find the interest in this course of lectures gradually subsiding. The expenses in this department in the last three years have exceeded the receipts \$458 85, and the committee have frequently found—comparatively speaking—a small number of members in attendance, as well as of others. It is not pleasant to present these facts, but they are nevertheless true ; and the fact of being true, de-

monstrates clearly to my mind that we have been exceedingly unfortunate in our choice of lecturers, or that our members, and citizens generally, have to some extent become weary of literary lectures, and would prefer the adoption of another mode by which they may be the better entertained. In view of these facts, I would suggest that, in the future, the course of literary lectures be dispensed with, and would recommend a thorough course of scientific lectures each season.

The course of scientific lectures, lately closed, has proven (intellectually) successful beyond our most sanguine expectations. Too much credit cannot be awarded to our fellow member, T. Clarkson Taylor, for his disinterested efforts in securing so decided an interest in this department of the Institute as has recently been developed. For some years past, the interest in scientific pursuits has been manifestly on the increase, and has received its merited encouragement by the Institute; and by the efforts of Mr. Taylor, in connection with the Executive Committee, the course of scientific lectures has ceased to be a matter of secondary importance, or of doubtful expediency, and become one of our most valuable adjuncts. The preamble to our Constitution declares that "We are associated for the diffusion of the means of information to all." One of the most prominent mediums through which knowledge is to be disseminated by our Institution is the scientific lecture. This, in connection with the library, form to some extent an educational institution within themselves.

Lectures ordinarily afford but little food for reflection; they furnish amusement and pleasure for a time, but usually are void of valuable and useful lessons. It is said that during the last decade, previous to the war, the United States of America made more rapid strides, and accomplished more by way of advancement, than any other nation has ever done in the same length of time. This is to be attributed, in a great measure, to the intelligence of our people. Knowledge and wealth are potent elements of power. It is these which give character to a nation. Where wealth is obtained, knowledge must abound.

Scientific knowledge has in the main produced our wealth. These elements combined, have given to our country that pre-eminence which she now enjoys.

Chemistry, as applied by the agriculturist alone, is a source of untold wealth.

Geology, as applied by him who delves into the bowels of the earth and opens out nature's hidden treasure, is valuable beyond comprehension. So with the whole scientific world, knowledge of which can always be drawn from nature's inexhaustible supply. In no way can scientific information be more thoroughly and cheaply imparted than through the medium of the lecture room.

I would suggest that the number of scientific lectures be increased, so as to include not less than ten lectures of the first class each season. As a Philosophical apparatus is requisite for illustration by way of experiment of the many subjects upon which the lecturer on science may discourse, I would recommend that the sum of \$150 (being less than the average loss per year for the last three years on the literary course,) be applied annually toward the purchase of such an apparatus. It will be seen at a glance that for this expenditure the Institute will receive full value; whereas, the loss sustained by the annual course of literary lectures is total, there being no return whatever.

This branch of the Institute I commend to the careful and earnest consideration of the Executive Committee, feeling assured that the subject will receive at their hands all the consideration its importance demands.

By the report of the Library Committee, it will be seen that the situation of this department of the Institute is encouraging beyond precedent. The number of volumes purchased since the last annual meeting is 570, largely exceeding the addition of any former year, although the cost of books now are, perhaps, greater than ever before. The appropriations for the benefit of this department for the year amount to \$1051 79. Books taken from the library during the year number about 25,500, showing an increase over the previous year of 5,500.

It is pleasant here to notice the manifest increase of reading, and how highly the members seem to appreciate the value of the library, and the steady increase of interest which appears to be taken in this branch of our Association. In our library proper we have 6603 volumes; Congressional debates, public documents, &c., &c., 712 volumes. The supply, however, is not adequate to the constantly increasing demand. I would recommend annual appropriations, as generous as the state of the treasury will admit, to this department. I would also suggest the addition of an increased number of standard and scientific works.

The number of publications taken the past year shows a slight increase over the number taken the previous year. I would recommend the creation of an additional number of stands for newspapers, as now many of them must remain on the tables or on files, which at times renders them difficult of access, and prevents their being made use of as much as they otherwise might be.

Sixty volumes, and a number of valuable curiosities, have been donated the past year, each one giving additional interest to the Institute. All have been properly cared for by the appropriate committee.

To our list of life members seven have been added during the year. At the last annual meeting the yearly payment of contributing members

was advanced from three to four dollars. In consideration of this, I would recommend that the payment for life membership be advanced to at least forty dollars, which is but ten dollars in excess of the present amount. Upon this point you will be called upon to act at this meeting.

The full report of the Committee on Rooms and Fixtures show clearly the situation of this department to be entirely satisfactory. The duties of this committee are varied and responsible, but have always been met with a great degree of cheerfulness. To the vigilant care exercised by this committee we are greatly indebted for our financial prosperity.

Having, in brief, reviewed the doings of our Association during my administration, and made such recommendations and suggestions as in my judgement are advisable, allow me to congratulate the members upon the present position of the Institute, financially, intellectually and morally. We have no floating debt, except a single note for a small amount, on account of the purchase of the Hughes property. We have paid during the past year all our bills at maturity; have reduced our funded debt \$1000, leaving our indebtedness at present \$33,420, with property real and personal worth nearly one hundred thousand dollars. We have added slightly to our publications, have added 620 volumes to our library proper, and vastly to the interest in our scientific lectures.

The moral effect of our Institution no one can properly estimate. It is like "bread cast upon the water, which shall be found after many days" The moral tone given to society by our organization, or rather the moral results of such an Association as the Wilmington Institute, by its influence, permeating as it does every interstice of society, cannot be measured or comprehended. It will be secretly developed in the unknown future. It is to me a gratifying fact that I have been connected, directly and indirectly, with our Institution from its germ. First in 1834, as a member of the Young Men's Library and Debating Society. Second, of the Franklin Lyceum. Third, of the Wilmington Library Company. Fourth, the Young Men's Association for mutual improvement. Fifth, the Wilmington Library and Young Men's Association. Sixth, the Wilmington Institute. My connection with these Institutions, which now culminate here, extend through a period of nearly thirty-two years. Note the contrast. In the beginning we had nothing. Now we have a large and valuable Library, carefully and judiciously selected; a commodious Reading Room, in which are to be found at all times newspapers from all parts of our country and from Europe; periodicals in profusion, both foreign and domestic; a magnificent and costly edifice, creditable as well to our city as to our Institution. We have also, at considerable expense, presented annually, for years back, one course of literary, and one course of scientific lectures.

And now I can fully attest the truth of the assertion, that from poverty abundance has come, and that we have long since passed the ultimatum of our original prospects.

To the members of the Executive Committee I would tender my profound thanks, for the uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me during my term of office. In this connection, allow me to say that, I feel persuaded that our members generally do not properly appreciate the obligations under which they are to that committee.

The duties of the Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and of the Chairman of some of the Sub-Committees are exceedingly onerous. In fact, upon each member much labor devolves, and a considerable sacrifice of time is required. I think I am right when I say, in fact I am willing to hazard the assertion, that there is not an Institution in the State, whether it be religious, scientific, financial or political, whose unpaid officers devote more time, give more attention, or are more assiduous in their efforts to advance the best interests of the Association with which they stand connected than the members of the Executive Committee of the Wilmington Institute.

The Executive Committee, in resigning their charge to their successors, feel fully persuaded that the interests of the Institute will be carefully guarded, which is a sufficient guarantee of the continued usefulness and prosperity of our organization.

JOHN H. ADAMS.